

REMARKS

Status of Claims:

Claims 22 and 23 have been added. Thus, claims 1-3, and 5-23 remain for examination.

Prior Art Rejection:

Claims 1-3, 6, 8-10, 16 and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated Louis et al (US6674425B1). Claims 5 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Louis et al (US6674425B1).

The examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

As to the rejected claims, claims 1 and 16 are independent. Both Claims 1 and 16 include the limitations of "a pointing device having a flat input surface secured with an adhesive on the interior surface of the outside wall adjacent the operation area --- the outside wall being larger than the flat input surface" and "a sticker stuck to the operation area". Moreover, independent claim 21 removes the limitation of the sticker but further adds the limitation that the adhesive is interposed between said flat input surface of the pointing device and the interior surface of the outside wall and aligned with the operation area,

The cited references do not disclose the above limitations.

As to independent claims 1 and 16, the examiner, citing Louis, identifying a disc-shaped ring-like thin transition zone 172 as the operation area, and a position sensitive input surface 154 as the flat input surface. However, in the claims 1 and 16, an operation area is in the exterior surface of a housing which contains an electronic component. Also, an outside wall of the housing is larger than a flat input surface. In Louis, a bezel 160 which includes the disc-shaped ring-like thin transition zone 172 does not have a housing which contains an electronic component and is smaller than the position sensitive input surface 154. Moreover, Louis does not disclose the colored sticker at all as recited in claims 1 and 16. The colored sticker is useful to set off the operation area from the remainder of the outside housing. Thus,

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as to claims 1 and 16, it is submitted that the PTO has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103, and thus applicants claims are patentable over the prior art.

As to claim 21, Louis teaches that only the peripheral area under the outer bezel 160 is provided with an adhesive substance 162, but no adhesive is provided in the interior regions which corresponds to applicant's operation region. In contrast, applicant's claim 21 recites that the adhesive is interposed between said flat input surface of the pointing device and the interior surface of the outside wall and aligned with the operation area. No such corresponding disclosure is shown in Louis. Thus, as to claim 21, it is submitted that the PTO has not made out a *prima facie* case of obviousness under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103, and thus applicants claims are patentable over the prior art.

Applicant's dependent claims are deemed to be patentable at least for the same reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 16.

Conclusions:

In view of the forgoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

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If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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